

**Remarkable Progress of the New Method—
Enlargement of Facilities.**

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The virulent and widespread epidemic of small-pox which has ravaged this country for the year or two past, has turned the attention of every one to the subject of vaccination as a preventive. The comparatively recent introduction of cow-pox, or non-humanized virus to the attention of physicians and the public,—not as a new discovery, but as a restoration of the original system of Jenner—and the excellent results thereby attained have gone far to establish the truth of the now generally accepted belief that the outbreak of the dreadful disease with such violence is mainly due to the insufficient protection afforded by the long humanized and deteriorated vaccine matter used for so many years, which by repeated transmission through thousands of systems has become weakened and virtually inert after a short period. The introduction of the true cow-pox, or animal vaccination to this country is due, as most of our readers know, to Dr. Henry Austin Martin, of No. 27 Dudley street, Boston Highlands, and his success has been such that at present nearly all the vaccinations in this part of the country are performed with his matter taken from the heifer, or a few human removes therefrom. So great has been his success, and so rapidly has the business grown on his hands, that from vaccinating one or two animals a week and supplying a few hundred "points" daily as a year ago, he is now obliged to maintain a herd of fifty to one hundred heifers and vaccinate one to three every day, while his sales of "points" and "crusts" go high up among the thousands daily. Besides the 60,000 points which Dr. Martin has furnished to the public vaccinators of this city and the over 9000 vaccinations which he has personally performed at his office, he is supplying his virus to over 40 cities and towns throughout the country, among them Washington, D. C., Buffalo, N. Y., Erie, Pa., Alexandria, Va., Memphis, Tenn., Lynn, Somerville, Dedham, West Roxbury, Brookline and many others, and invariably with wonderfully successful results.

Of course such a growth in the business requires an immediate and extensive enlargement of his facilities, and Dr. Martin has accordingly purchased and is fitting up a splendid place in Brookline for the purposes of his vaccinal institute, in which he naturally takes great pride, and which he intends to make a permanency, associating his sons with him—as one is already associated—and adding to his facilities and stock from time to time as necessary to meet the demand, with a view to supplying the entire country with pure, non-humanized vaccine virus.

The estate in question is known as "the Blancy estate," at Longwood, fronting on Park street, near Harvard avenue, and comprising about two acres of land, with two buildings upon it at present; an elegant stable and a small wooden cottage. The former building, which is of brick, with heavy granite trimmings and slated French roof, was built at a cost of over \$12,000 by the former owner. It stands upon the brow of a steep declivity, in such a manner that while it is all above ground, the carriage room on the second floor is nearly level with the ground on the upper side. The building throughout is of the most thorough character, and expense has nowhere been considered to the prejudice of convenience or excellence. The alterations and additions contemplated by Dr. Martin are expected



to be complete by the first of January, when his herd of a hundred or so heifers will be transferred thither and made to serve the cause of science and humanity at the rate of two or three a day. When it is considered that the French government, which has taken the matter of animal vaccination especially in charge, and from which Dr. Martin's stock was obtained, makes an annual appropriation of only about \$1200 (6000 francs), and has never vaccinated more than 60 heifers per year, the extent of Dr. Martin's business will be appreciated; also the great capital required, his monthly expenses being far in advance of those yearly incurred by the French Academy. The lower room, or stable proper, which has a solid stone floor and is heated by a furnace, will be fitted up with about 50 stalls for the accommodation of the animals in the various stages of the disease, while those at particular stages, in which perfect and steady warmth is imperative, will be quartered in the two box stalls, which are nicely enough finished for sleeping rooms, and kept at any desired temperature by means of registers. The remaining animals, not yet inoculated, will be quartered in sheds in the rear, while a fine paddock will be enclosed for the purpose of exercise. The heifers are procured by an agent of the doctor who gives his whole time to their selection and shipment, purchasing only the best specimens, often at very high prices, as the doctor's instructions are to get the best and the best only. The carriage room overhead, which is finished in polished hard pine, is to be fitted up with two operating rooms, in which the processes of vaccinating the heifers and collecting the virus will be carried on, as previously described in the *Traveller* of February 5, 1872. The cottage will be occupied by an experienced and careful man, who will have charge of the stable, the animals and the grounds. One room will be fitted up as an office for the doctor himself, where at certain hours he will be in attendance to vaccinate those who desire, direct from the heifer, and to convince those who are skeptical as to his having the animals he claims by ocular demonstration. As to the efficacy of the new—or rather the revival of the original—system of vaccination, Dr. Martin has thousands of letters from physicians, giving an average of 70 per cent. of successful results. The great difference between the effects of humanized and non-humanized virus is shown by plates in the doctor's office, and still more clearly by specimens of the crusts from different arms, one set of which deserves especial mention. The case was that of a child directly exposed to small-pox, which the attending physician, in his anxiety to fully protect, vaccinated in both arms—one with Dr. Martin's cow-pox virus, the other with the sixth human remove therefrom. The crusts from the former are of the type described by Jenner, large, perfectly circular, with umbilicated or depressed centres and raised edges. In the others, the vesicles burst, producing misshapen, irregular and entirely amorphous crusts. Dr. Martin has had several cases presented of persons who had been either accidentally or intentionally inoculated from spontaneous cases of cow-pox, and in no instance—though in one case over fifty years had elapsed—was he able to produce any effect by revaccination, proving the true cow-pox to be not only a perfect but a permanent protection. The report of the Board of Health of Washington, D. C., through whose admirable, intelligent and vigorous efforts, with the exclusive use of the pure cow-pox virus, the epidemic, more threatening than that in Boston, was completely checked in that city, says of this virus:



The matter furnished by the board has been purchased in quantities from Dr. Henry Austin Martin, of Boston, to whom the country is indebted for his extraordinary zeal and energy in its introduction into general use. No one on the continent enjoys so extended an experience in animal vaccination, has so thoroughly investigated the whole subject, or deserves a larger share of credit for his untiring labors in this field of useful effort.

With regard to the statements of the transmission of erysipelas by means of animal vaccination, Dr. Martin states that in the nearly half million cases of vaccination from his virus, not one case of erysipelatos affection or of post-vaccinal small-pox has come to his knowledge, while the records constantly show cases of erysipelatos affections from the use of the humanized matter and frequent cases of post-vaccinal variola. Of course, Dr. Martin's success has brought into the field hosts of imitators, who without any preparatory knowledge, and impelled only by the hope of pecuniary profit, have attempted to vaccinate animals with matter surreptitiously obtained from Dr. Martin and have entirely failed in obtaining uniformly successful results, through ignorance of the whole subject and the insignificant outlay of money they have made.

The present epidemic prevailing through a large portion of the country has brought animal vaccination to the crucial test of practical use on a most extensive scale, which alone can promptly and conclusively settle its merits as compared with the old system. The verdict has been triumphantly satisfactory and gratifying to Dr. Martin and the friends of animal vaccination. Thousands of physicians who were wavering in their belief, and hundreds who were bitterly prejudiced against it have now become its enthusiastic and exclusive advocates and practitioners. The public vaccinators of this city, using the virus under by no means favorable circumstances, have attained an average of over 64 per cent. of success in revaccination, while the highest average claimed by any author of reputation for the old virus is 30 per cent., and many place it as low as 18 per cent. Dr. Martin, in his own vaccinations at his office—over 5000 in two years—obtains an average of from 70 to 80 per cent.

When it is considered that every person who on revaccination is susceptible to the action of the cow-pox virus, would on exposure, have been susceptible in precisely the same degree to the action of small-pox; that thousands of those who on repeated trial prove to be wanting in susceptibility to the enfeebled virus of long humanization, have also proved subsequently entirely susceptible to the stronger influence of the small-pox; and when it is also understood beyond all doubt or cavil that every adult person who on revaccination with cow-pox virus manifests unmistakable, though often slight true vaccinal effect is thenceforward for the rest of his or her life entirely safe from small-pox in all its forms and modifications, it seems hardly necessary to say more in defence of cow-pox vaccination. Although those who have passed through an attack of the small-pox have been considered entirely safe and undoubtedly are so in the presence of ordinary epidemics, most woful and many hundred times repeated experiences in Boston and Philadelphia during the late and present epidemic have proved that when the disease prevails with intense malignity such people are not much better protected than those who have been well vaccinated in childhood.

From every part of the United States Dr. Martin is daily receiving large orders—in fact his institution is rapidly superseding those of Europe. It is the board of the National Vaccine Institution of London that in one part each year it issued 100,000 points of vaccine



matter. Without knowing the exact amount of Dr. Martin's business, we have seen indubitable proof that as a result of the indefatigable labor of himself and sons, with their corps of assistants, a much larger number of points of the cow-pox virus will have been this year distributed to every part of the United States north of Mason and Dixon's line, and even of late south of that famous boundary. It is the uniform report from every point to which the virus has been sent, that the best results have everywhere been attained. At present only two classes of physicians stand out against the doctor's method, one class so wise in their own conceit and so wedded to old traditions, that they will not even investigate the subject or test the new method; the other—almost entirely confined to Boston—composed of bitter and malignant personal enemies of Dr. Martin. From the latter, as their opposition is neither founded in reason, in fitness, nor truth, Dr. Martin expects little change in his favor, but from the ranks of the former class converts are daily made of those who a few months since were bitter in their opposition to any change in long-accustomed modes of vaccination. It is very noticeable that the criticisms of the opponents of the system never see the light, not an article having the slightest claim to scientific accuracy, nor indeed any but the most anonymous slurs having ever been published. The subject is one of too immense importance to be treated in anything but a spirit of the widest philanthropy and the closest and most accurate observation.

A great many country physicians have procured virus in this city purporting to be Dr. Martin's which was not of his production, and when the dealers have been taxed with the fraud have replied, "Oh, not from Dr. Martin *direct*, but of his stock originally." That is, some one had got some of Dr. Martin's virus, and with it, without any knowledge of the subject, vaccinated kine, and obtained what they sold as genuine cow-pox virus therefrom. Much injury has thus been done to the doctor, to humanity, and to the cause of animal vaccination, and it was to defeat in a measure this practice, that Dr. Martin advertised on the 7th inst. that he had appointed T. Melcalf & Co. his sole agents.

The above rather imperfectly gives the ideas of a long and very interesting conversation with Dr. Martin, or perhaps it would be more correctly described as a lecture on vaccination by Dr. Martin, with a representative of the *Traveller* for audience. In conclusion the doctor says that despite his scanty leisure he is both ready and willing to meet and answer fully at every point, all who may see fit to enter any respectable literary or scientific arena in the discussion of the merits of what he (Dr. Martin) claims to be a revival of the original vaccination of Edward Jenner.





